

a5
cancel

be displayed. When the user operates the activated switch button 76, the client 42a, 42b, or 42c outputs a request to the camera server 40 to transmit an image sensed by the camera 54. In response to the request, the camera server 40 down-loads an image sensed by the camera 54 via the network 44 instead of the advertisement stored in the secondary storage device 50.

At page 12, please delete the paragraph beginning "Fig. 6 is a flowchart showing . . ." and substitute the following paragraph:

a6

Fig. 6 is a flowchart showing a processing sequence of the aforesaid operation performed by the web server 26 (or the camera server 40). Note, in Fig. 6, the same processes as those in Fig. 5 are referred to by the same step numbers, and explanations of those are omitted. Fig. 6 differs from Fig. 5 in the processes subsequent to step S13 in which information (e.g., advertisement) from the image server 22 starts to be down-loaded.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows.

D.E.
R1121
EXCISE

1. An image down-loading apparatus capable of down-loading an image to a plurality of clients via internet, comprising:

a switch for switching between a first output device which outputs an image and a second output device which outputs information which is independent of the image outputted by said first output device; and

a switch controller for controlling said switch,

wherein said switch controller controls said switch so as to select said second output device for a first predetermined period after said first output device is selected for a second predetermined period.

2 The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when a request for down-loading of the image to be outputted by said first output device is received while said second output device is selected after a third predetermined period has elapsed since said switch switched from said first output device to said second output device, said switch controller controls said switch so as to switch from said second output device to said first output device.

3. The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the clients are classified into a plurality of groups, and the image down-loading apparatus further comprises a discrimination unit adapted to discriminate a group to which a client belongs,

 wherein said switch controller controls said switch so as to make the first predetermined period shorter for a client which belongs to a first group than for a client which belongs to a second group.

4. The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising memory for storing information on clients,

 wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the information on the client is stored in said memory, and discriminates a client as belonging to the second group when the information on the client is not stored in said memory.

5. The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the client enters a correct password, and discriminates a client as belonging to the second group otherwise.

6. The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the clients are classified into a plurality of groups, and the image down-loading apparatus further comprises discrimination unit for discriminating a group to which a client belongs,

wherein said switch controller controls said switch so as to keep selecting said first output device for a client which belongs to a first group.

7. The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising memory for storing information on clients,

wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the information on the client is stored in said memory, and discriminates a client as belonging to a second group when the information on the client is not stored in said memory.

8. The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the client enters a correct password, and discriminates a client as belonging to the second group otherwise.

9. The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the clients are classified into a plurality of groups, and the image down-loading apparatus further comprises a discrimination unit adapted to discriminate a group to which a client belongs,

wherein said switch controller controls said switch so as to keep selecting said first output device for a client which belongs to a first group, and to make the first predetermined period shorter for a client which belongs to a second group than for a client which belongs to a third group.

10. The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image outputted by said first output device is a moving image.

11. The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the image outputted by said first output device is an image being sensed by a video camera.

12. The image down-loading apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising memory for storing information,

wherein the information to be outputted by said second output device is the information stored in said memory.

13. An image down-loading system capable of down-loading an image to a plurality of clients via internet, comprising:

a first down-loading device which down-loads an image;

a second down-loading device which down-loads information which is independent of the image down-loaded by said first down-loading device;

a switch for switching between said first down-loading device and said second down-loading device; and

a switch controller for controlling said switch,

wherein said switch controller controls said switch so as to select said second down-loading device for a first predetermined period after said first down-loading device is selected for a second predetermined period.

14. The image down-loading system according to claim 13, wherein the clients have memory for storing the information down-loaded by said second down-loading device, and while said switch selects said second down-loading device, the clients display the information stored in said memory.

15. The image down-loading system according to claim 13, wherein the clients have memory for storing the information down-loaded by said second down-loading device, and since a communication path is established on the internet until the image to be down-loaded by said first down-loading device starts to be down-loaded, the clients display the information stored in said memory.

16. The image down-loading system according to claim 13, wherein the clients have memory for storing the information down-loaded by said second down-loading device, and after a communication path on the internet is disconnected, the clients display the information stored in said memory.

17. The image down-loading system according to claim 13, wherein, when a request for down-loading of the image to be down-loaded by said first down-loading device is received while said second down-loading device is selected after a third predetermined period has elapsed since said switch switched from said first down-loading device to said second down-loading device, said switch controller controls said switch so as to switch from said second down-loading device to said first down-loading device.

18. The image down-loading system according to claim 13, wherein the clients are classified into a plurality of groups, and the image down-loading system further comprises a discrimination unit adapted to discriminate a group to which a client belongs,

wherein said switch controller controls said switch so as to make the first predetermined period shorter for a client which belongs to a first group than for a client which belongs to a second group.

19. The image down-loading system according to claim 18, further comprising memory for storing information on clients,

wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the information on the client is stored in said memory, and discriminates a client as belonging to the second group when the information on the client is not stored in said memory.

20. The image down-loading system according to claim 18, wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the client enters a correct password, and discriminates a client as belonging to the second group otherwise.

21. The image down-loading system according to claim 13, wherein the clients are classified into a plurality of groups, and the image down-loading system further comprises a discrimination unit adapted to discriminate a group to which a client belongs, wherein said switch controller controls said switch so as to keep selecting said first down-loading device for a client which belongs to a first group.

22. The image down-loading system according to claim 21, further comprising memory for storing information on clients,

wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the information on the client is stored in said memory, and discriminates a client as belonging to a second group when the information on the client is not stored in said memory.

23. The image down-loading system according to claim 21, wherein said discrimination unit discriminates a client as belonging to the first group when the client enters a correct password, and discriminates a client as belonging to the second group otherwise.

24. The image down-loading system according to claim 13, wherein the clients are classified into a plurality of groups, and the image down-loading system further comprises a discrimination unit adapted to discriminate a group to which a client belongs, wherein said switch controller controls said switch so as to keep selecting said first downloading device for a client which belongs to a first group, and to make the first predetermined period shorter for a client which belongs to a second group than for a client which belongs to a third group.

25. The image down-loading system according to claim 13, wherein the image down-loaded by said first down-loading device is a moving image.

26. The image down-loading system according to claim 25, wherein the image down-loaded by said first down-loading device is an image being sensed by a video camera.

27. The image down-loading system according to claim 13, further comprising memory for storing information,

wherein the information to be down-loaded by said second down-loading device is the information stored in said memory.

28. An image down-loading method capable of down-loading an image to a plurality of clients via internet, comprising:

a first down-loading step of down-loading an image;

a second down-loading step of down-loading information which is independent of the image down-loaded in said first down-loading step;

a first switching step of switching from said first down-loading step to said second down-loading step after a first predetermined period has elapsed; and

a second switching step of switching from said second down-loading step to said first down-loading step after a second predetermined period has elapsed.

30. The image down-loading method according to claim 28, further comprising:

a step of causing a client to store the information down-loaded in said second downloading step; and

a step of displaying the stored information for a period since a communication path is established on the internet until the image to be down-loaded in said first down-loading step starts to be down-loaded.

31. The image down-loading method according to claim 28, further comprising:

a step of causing a client to store the information down-loaded in said second down-loading step; and

a step of displaying the stored information after communication path on the internet is disconnected.

34. The image down-loading method according to claim 33, wherein, in said discrimination step, whether or not a client is a registered client, the registered client is discriminated to belong to the first group and a non-registered client is discriminated to belong to the second group.

35. The image down-loading method according to claim 33, wherein, in said discrimination step, a client who enters a correct password is discriminated to belong to the first group, and other clients are discriminated to belong to the second group.

37. The image down-loading method according to claim 36, wherein, in said discrimination step, whether or not a client is a registered client, the registered client is discriminated to belong to the first group and a non-registered client is discriminated to belong to the second group.

38. The image down-loading method according to claim 36, wherein, in said discrimination step, a client who enters a correct password is discriminated to belong to the first group, and other clients are discriminated to belong to the second group.

43. A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for down-loading an image to a plurality of clients via internet, said product including:

first computer readable program code means for down-loading an image;

second computer readable program code means for down-loading information which is independent of the image;

third computer readable program code means for switching from said first computer readable program code means to said second computer readable program code means after a first predetermined period has elapsed; and

fourth computer readable program code means for switching from said second computer readable program code means to said first computer readable program code means after a second predetermined period has elapsed.

44. The computer program product according to claim 43, further comprising:

fifth computer readable program code means for causing a client to store the information; and

sixth computer readable program code means for causing the client to display the stored information for a period corresponding to a period during which said second computer readable program code means is to be activated.

45. The computer program product according to claim 43, further comprising:

seventh computer readable program code means for causing a client to store the information; and

eighth computer readable program code means for displaying the stored information for a period since a communication path is established on the internet until the image starts to be down-loaded.

46. The computer program product according to claim 43, further comprising:

ninth computer readable program code means for causing a client to store the information; and

tenth computer readable program code means for displaying the stored information after a communication path on the internet is disconnected.

47. The computer program product according to claim 43, further comprising:

eleventh computer readable program code means for determining whether or not a request for down-loading of the image is received when said second computer readable computer code means is active after a third predetermined period has elapsed since said third computer readable program code means is activated; and

twelfth computer readable program code means for switching from said second computer readable program code means to said first computer readable program code means when it is determined that the request is received.

48. The computer program product according to claim 43, wherein the clients are classified into a plurality of groups, and the product further comprises thirteenth computer readable program code means for discriminating a group to which a client belongs,

wherein the second predetermined period is shorter for a client which belongs to a first group than for a client which belongs to a second group.